



The Honorable Beverly Sherwood
Virginia House of Delegates
910 Capitol St.
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Edward Scott
Virginia House of Delegates
910 Capitol St.
Richmond, Virginia 23219

February 4, 2013

Dear Chairwoman Sherwood and Vice Chairman Scott:

I am writing on behalf of the American Sportfishing Association to request your support for SB 1117, Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act, which will create important protections for boat owners, marine dealers, law enforcement and loan providers thus strengthening Virginia's exiting boat titling law. We believe that this bill will bring boat titles on par with the protections and benefits provided by titles for motor vehicles, without any additional cost to boaters. The recreational fishing and boating community as a whole will greatly benefit from these changes.

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) is the sportfishing industry's trade association, committed to looking out for the interests of the entire sportfishing community. We give the industry a unified voice speaking out when emerging laws and policies could significantly affect the sportfishing business or sportfishing itself. Virginia's anglers generate over \$1 billion in retail sales with a \$2 billion impact on the state's economy and generating over eighteen thousand jobs throughout the state. Given that approximately two thirds of boats are purchased for recreational fishing, Virginia's angling community is invested in the passage of SB 1117

If enacted, SB 1117 will provide Virginia anglers and boaters with significant consumer protection, as well as provide important benefits for marine dealers, manufacturers, bankers and other loan providers, and law enforcement. For law enforcement, SB 1117 will put Virginia first among the states that are working to adopt the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) model act. Uniform of titling requirements, such as exists nationwide under the ULC's motor vehicle titling act, will provide seamless transparency as boats are bought and sold across state lines. This helps law enforcement identify boats stolen from other states and protects recreational boat owners.

For these reasons, we support this bill and we ask that you support the recreational fishing industry, marine industry and boat owners by voting in favor of SB 117.

Sincerely,

Gordon Robertson
Vice President, American Sportfishing Association

Cc: Members, House Natural Resources Committee

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